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Acting
Wednesday
August 20, 1952

Staff meeting.

I talked to Walt Butterworth by telephone. I asked him to send by telegraph a lengthy report on the Margaret Truman incident in Stockholm. I believe this is now satisfactorily settled, and nothing unpleasant seems really to have occurred.

I talked to John Snyder and to Joe Short further about it this morning.

Mr. Arneson's assistant, Mr. Chase, came to see me about [redacted] atomic energy matters.

Abdol Hassan Ebtihaj, formerly [redacted] Ambassador to Paris, whom I knew well there, and now Adviser to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, called on me. I was delighted to see him, and we talked about the situation in his own country, which worries him deeply.

Jean Daridan came [redacted] to present another request from his Government that the Secretary make a statement giving U. S. support for the French program of reforms in Tunisia. I repeated what I had told him before, namely, that apart from other considerations, I believed it would be untimely to have such a thing done now. I urged on him once more the importance of the French agreeing to inscription of the Tunisian item on the agenda of the U. S. General Assembly in October, since the opposition has the votes to inscribe it in any case. I told him that, as regards the French Government's latest request, it would be submitted to Mr. Acheson for his consideration when he returns next week. Ridgway Knight and Jack Jernegan were present during this interview.

He had a meeting at 1:30 with Messrs. Byroade, Perkins and Ferguson

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on Iran.

Bob Terrill came to see me to say goodbye, before going off to take up his post as Economic Counsellor at the Embassy in Rio.

I went to see the President at 3:30 to deliver Mr. Churchill's letter to him. We talked it over. He felt it was a significant and promising effort on the part of the Prime Minister to attempt a solution of the affair.

Upon returning to the office, Messrs. Byroade, Matthews, Ferguson, Perkins, Howe and Richards met with me for a discussion of a suggested reply by the President to Mr. Churchill's letter.

I then struggled with the debatable question as to whether we should advise the President to answer a letter he had received from the Pope in reply to a secret letter [redacted] the President had written the Pope some time ago about our diplomatic representation at the Vatican. The President had given a resumé of the history of this affair, and [redacted] informed His Holiness ~~there~~ there was nothing further he could do during his present term of office. The Pope had responded with a lengthy, and admirably phrased, letter of understanding. I shall recommend to the President that he acknowledge its receipt, and express his appreciation for it. There is some feeling in the Department that an acknowledgment is unnecessary, since it might be construed as an invitation to continue correspondence on this subject.

Mr. Lehrbas came to see me to say he would shortly be leaving the Department, and going to France to act as Public Affairs Adviser to General Ridgway, a [redacted] desirable position. I congratulated him on it.

John Hayes, of Indiana, stopped to see me and said [redacted] he was just here for the day in connection with Republican politics. He is active in

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Indiana in connection with General Eisenhower's campaign, but says the betting there, though small, is at present about 7 to 5 on Stevenson to win the election. Hayes, who is said to be a shrewd observer, thinks ~~xxxxx~~ Eisenhower will gather strength as the campaign progresses.

I went to dinner with the Bob Joyces. Cy Sulzberger is staying with them. Averell, the Wisners and Bohlens were the other guests.

At 9:45 Hank Byroade stopped for me, and we went to the British Embassy to see Oliver Franks. He had received another long message today from the Prime Minister to President Truman elaborating on his message of yesterday. We thought its contents [redacted] hopeful, and will give further study to it before it goes to the President tomorrow morning.

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